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have therefore supposed 485b-486a to be an independent insertion by Cynewulf. I am now inclined to think, however, that it comes from Gregory's letter to Æthelbert (Bede, *Eccl. Hist.* i. 32; Migne, *Patr. Lat.* 77. 1201). The words are: "Christianam fidem in populis tibi subditis extendere festina, zelum rectitudinis tuæ in eorum conversione multiplica, *idolorum cultus insequere, fanorum ædificia everte*," etc. This was in the letter sent by Mellitus; later, in writing to Mellitus, he advises greater leniency (Bede i. 30; Migne 77. 1215): "Dicite ei [i. e. Augustine] . . . quia fana idolorum destrui in eadem gente minime debeant, sed ipsa quæ in eis sunt idola destruantur. Aqua benedicta fiat, in eisdem fanis aspergatur, altaria construantur, reliquiæ ponantur, quia si fana eadem bene constructa sunt, necesse est ut a cultu dæmonum in obsequium veri Dei debeant commutari," etc. Plummer has a long and interesting note on Bede i. 30, in which he says: "We constantly hear of idols and idolatry in all the Saxon kingdoms—Kent, i. 30, 32; ii. 6; Essex, ii. 5; iii. 22, 30; Northumbria, ii. 10, 11, 13; iii. 1; East Anglia, ii. 15; Mercia, ii. 20; Sussex, iv. 13; v. 19; of the Saxons generally, ii. 1." Cf. the note in Migne on *Epist.* ii. 66, 76 (*Patr. Lat.* 77. 1203. c; 1215. b). We can only conclude that Cynewulf, for some good reason, was more in sympathy with the radical policy.

ALBERT S. COOK.

Yale University.

WYCHERLEY AND JEREMY COLLIER.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—In M. Beljame's admirable work, *Le Public et les Hommes de Lettres* (page 252), in discussing the replies to Collier's famous *Short View*, he says, "Congreve, Vanbrugh, D'Urfey, directement pris à partie, se hâtèrent de répondre: Congreve et Vanbrugh, dans des

publications speciales; D'Urfey, dans une préface 'familiale,' mise en tête de sa comédie des *Campaigners* et dans le prologue de la même pièce. Wycherley répondit sans doute aussi." In a footnote he gives as his authorities for Wycherley's reply, Allibone and Macaulay, and adds, "Ni Macaulay ni Allibone ne donnent d'indications qui m'aient permis de retrouver la réponse de Wycherley." On looking up these two references, I find that Allibone says, under the heading Collier, "Wycherley was suspected of being one of his assailants." Macaulay in his essay, *Comic Dramatists of the Restoration*, says, "Congreve was not Collier's only opponent. Vanbrugh, Dennis, and Settle took the field. And, from the passage in a contemporary satire, we are inclined to think that among the answers to the 'Short View,' was one written, or supposed to be written, by Wycherley." Mr. Edmund Gosse, as is his wont, goes much farther. In a discussion of the Collier controversy, in his *Life Of Congreve*, a discussion containing errors of fact on vital points, he alludes to an anonymous tract called *A Vindication of the Stage*, and says, "I have little hesitation, however, in attributing it to Wycherley," and proceeds to give evidence that is the merest guess-work (pp. 113, 114). Prof. Ward, in his *Hist. Eng. Dram. Lit.*, iii, 312, merely gives Mr. Gosse's opinion.

All the above writers seem to have overlooked an important passage in one little tract which indicates pretty strongly that Wycherley did not reply to Collier at all. To the second edition of Collier's *Dissuasive from the Play-House*, which appeared in 1704, one year after the first edition, there was added "A Letter written by another Hand; in Answer to some Queries sent by a Person of Quality, Relating to the Irregularities charged upon the *Stage*." In this interesting document occurs the following passage: "I come now to your next Question: When Mr. C. made so vigorous an Attack upon our *Stages*, as shook the Foundation; what was the Reason, in so desperate a Juncture (when the whole Posse of *Parnassus* was expected up in Arms) that only the *Minor Poets* appear'd? Where was the mighty W—? * * * * But, during these skirmishes, where was, say

you, the mighty W—, a wit, certainly, of the first magnitude; and with so great a Fund of Sense, that, besides his Contributions to the *Stage's* Diversion, he could not want a Stock for its Defence; even when the common Bank of Wit fail'd.

To this I must tell you, He was never a Retainer to the *Theatres*, but a Person of too much Judgment to engage in the Quarrel. Besides he had fore-cluded himself, and already decided the Case, in his Dedication to Madam B. (Bawd by Profession whatever was her Name) *I think*, says he, *a Poet should be as free of your Houses as of the Play-Houses, since he contributes to the Support of both, and is as necessary to you as the Ballad-Singer to the Pick-Purse, in convening the Cullies at the Theatre, to be pick'd up, and carried to a Supper, and Bed at your Houses.*

Ridentem dicere Verum, &c. Nothing like a true Jest. Brothels and Play-Houses, Poets and Pandars, are in the same Predicament with this Author, and he is too much a *Plain-Dealer* to retract his Evidence." He then goes on to speak of Dryden's attitude.

To my mind, the above quotation is fairly satisfactory evidence that Wycherley made no reply to Collier.

WM. LYON PHELPS.

Yale University.

LYCIDAS 40 ff.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—In these lines Milton would seem to have been more indebted to Virgil's *Eclogues* than has been commonly supposed. Warton refers 'gadding vine' to Cicero, *De Senectute* 15. 52: 'quam [sc. vitem] serpentem multiplici lapsu et *erratico* ferro amputans coercet ars agricolarum, ne silvescat sarmentis et in omnis partis ninia fundatur'; but it is more likely to be a reminiscence of the 'errantis hederas' of *Ecl.* 4. 19 (note that ivy is associated with a cave in Theoc. *Idyll.* 3. 17; the cultivated grape-vine of Homer, *Od.* 5. 69 is not 'gadding', though Butcher and Lang employ this epithet). The 'wild thyme' of Shakespeare, *M. N. D.*

2. 1. 249, was very likely in Milton's mind; but he may also have thought of the sweet thyme which grows upon Hybla (*Ecl.* 7. 37), associated as it is with 'white ivy' in the next line. 'And all their echoes mourn' is probably, as Jerram has pointed out, from Moschus, *Epit. Bion.* 30. There are willows, associated with the vine in Virgil, *Ecl.* 10. 40; and there are hazels in *Ecl.* 5. 3.

ALBERT S. COOK.

Yale University.

TOM TYLER AND HIS WIFE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—A word regarding the probable date of *Tom Tyler* may be added to Professor Schelling's discussion of the matter in the last number of the *Publications of the Modern Language Association*. The Stationer's Register records the entry of a ballad, 'tom Tyler', among others licensed to Colwell the printer, in the year 1562-3.

Collier, in 1848,¹ adds to his statement of 1831 that 'the drama itself may have been here first entered for publication.' The supposition is hardly warranted by the character of the *Register*, which distinguishes, certainly in most cases, between a 'boke,' a 'ballatte,' a 'ditty,' etc. Still, the entry is worth noting.

W. P. REEVES.

Kenyon College.

LEXICAL AND GLOSSOLOGICAL NOTES.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—Permit me to correct some misprints I have noticed in my article in the November number:

Col. 413, l. 4 read *beskytten*; l. 6 read *hoedloc* and *hoedyl*; l. 17 read *fermentum surdowght*.

¹ Shakespeare Society's Publications, p. 74.